

# Morgantown Police Department

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## NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

April 8, 2012

### **“Update of April 8, 2012 Fatal Fall”**

Today’s press release is an update regarding the fatal fall that occurred at approximately 1:00 am on April 8, 2012. Officers of the Morgantown Police Department, along with EMS, responded to a reported fall that occurred at 250 High Street Morgantown.

Officers arrived and found the victim who appeared to have fallen from a ledge outside of a window. Officers and Emergency Medical Technicians performed first aid at the scene and the victim was transported to Ruby Memorial Hospital where he was later pronounced as deceased.

The victim was identified as Brian Weitehauer, of Toms River New Jersey. Pursuant to an ongoing investigation conducted by the Morgantown Police Department along with the Morgantown Fire Department and Morgantown Code Enforcement Offices, the following information is provided.

250 High Street is an apartment building located above a nightclub. Surveillance video from the building shows that there were approximately 75 people in and out of the apartment during a four hour period participating in an off campus party. There were approximately 30 people present inside the apartment at the time of the incident.

Multiple witnesses observed Mr. Weitenhauer on a wooden platform, by himself outside of the building. The wooden platform did not conform to fire code at the time of this incident. Mr. Weitenhauer fell approximately 42 feet to the ground below and died as a result of injuries sustained from the fall. The death investigation is currently closed and no criminal charges will be filed.

Following the incident, the Morgantown Fire Department and Code Enforcement Office also conducted inspections of the building and several violations were also discovered.

The platform on the exterior of the building was possibly erected around 1993 but there are no specific records located indicating when it was constructed. The platform did not comply with existing building codes. Other violations, including a non-conforming alarm system, were identified and the Morgantown Fire Department has issued notice of violation and a corrective action plan.

Additionally, there is currently no record of a business permit on file with the City Tax Office for “Innercity LLC”.

Ed Preston  
Chief of Police

Mark Caravasos  
Fire Chief